

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:602
ANSWERED ON:17.07.2002
MOU WITH NEPAL
ANANDRAO ADSUL

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any proposal to grant any assistance to Nepal for setting up the East-West Highway Optical Fibre Cable Network;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the extent of financial assistance to Nepal proposed for this purpose;
- (c) whether any memorandum of understanding has been signed between the two countries;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the time by which it will be implemented?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI S MAHAJAN)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government of India has proposed Synchronous Digital Hierarchy (SDH) based Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) project along the East West Highway of Nepal on turnkey basis under the Grants-in-Aid by Government of India to Government of Nepal.

The project is estimated to be of Rs. 84 crores value and covers route link of about 1000 KMs and shall connect 81 stations along the East West highway starting from Bhadrapur in the East and Nepal Ganj in the West. The entire cost of this project will be provided by the Government of India as Grants assistance to Nepal.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) On 12-04-2002, an MOU has been signed between the Government of India and His Majesty's Government of Nepal for the cooperation in the telecommunications sector in Nepal. The MOU envisages setting up of an Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) based information Super Highway along the East West Highway in Nepal.

(e) The project is likely to be implemented over a period of two years.